MARVEL COMICS
LAST RITES
Part 1 of IV
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR
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297
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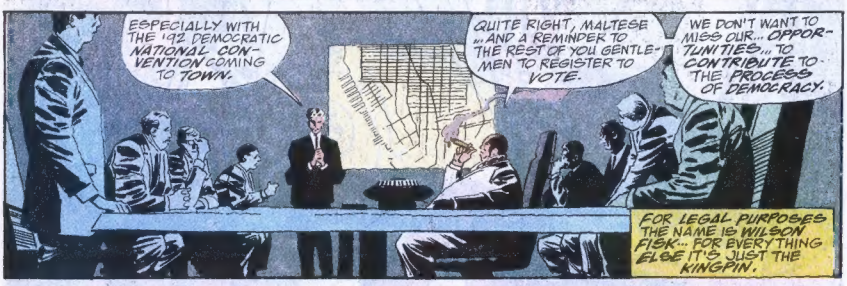
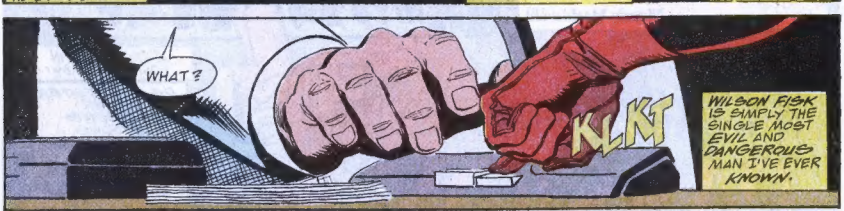
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THE TERMINATION OF TYPHOID!
50 YEARS OF CAPTAIN AMERICA
a Bchry Scan

A CHILDHOOD ACCIDENT STOLE HIS SIGHT, BUT, INCREDIBLY, IT ENDOWED YOUNG MATT MURDOCK WITH RADAR VISION AND HEIGHTENED SENSES. ARMED ONLY WITH HIS ATHLETIC PROWESS, BILLY CLUB, AND INDOMITABLE COURAGE, MATT BATTLES INJUSTICE AS A CRIMSON-CLAD GLADIATOR!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: # DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!





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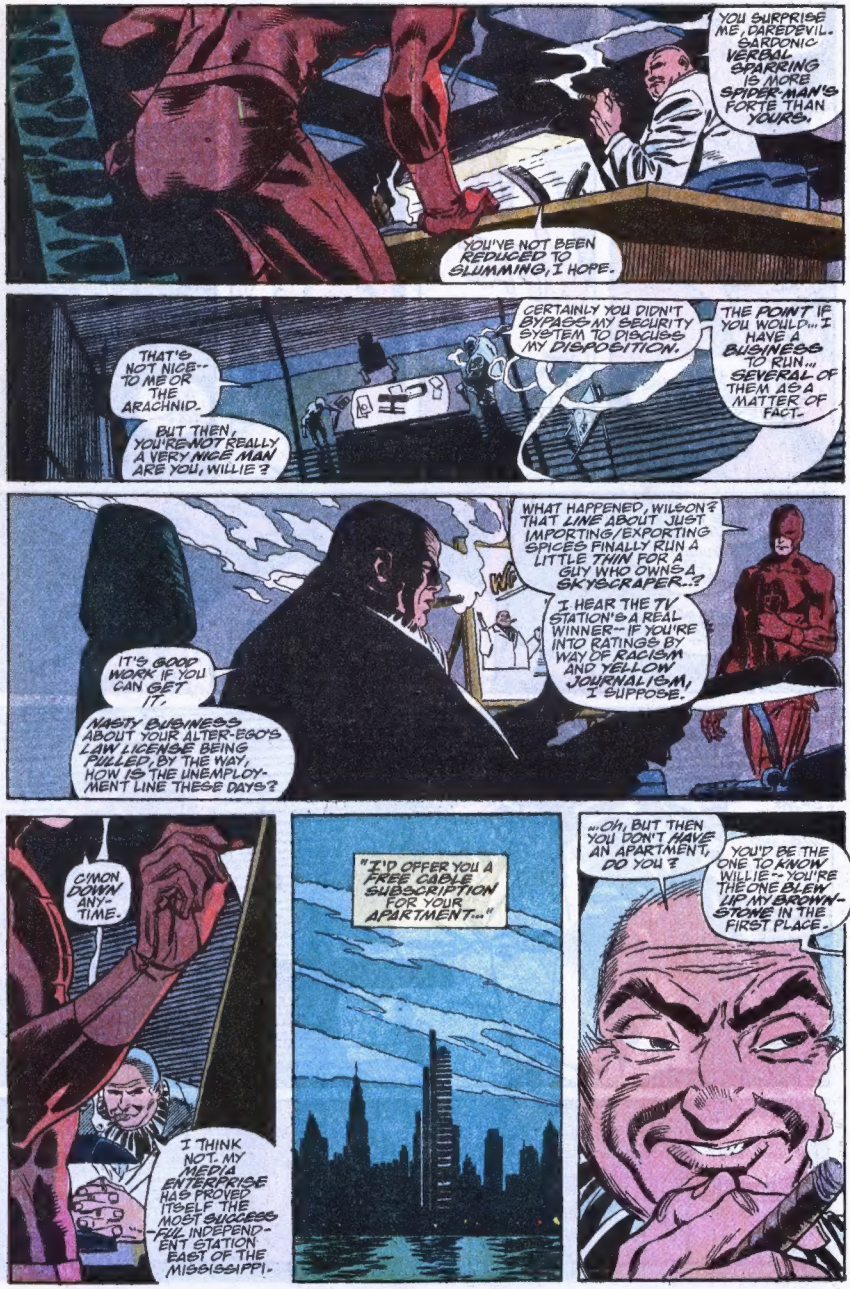
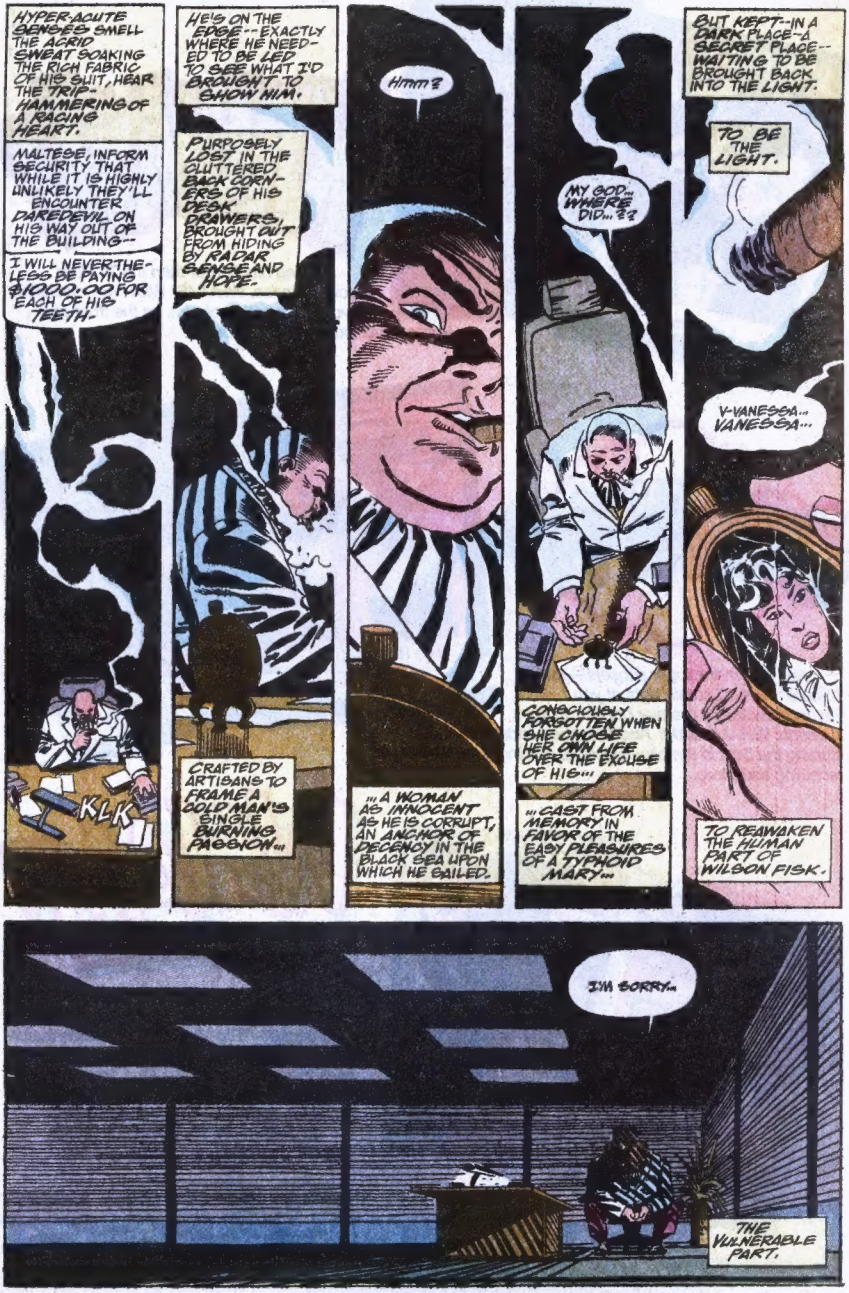
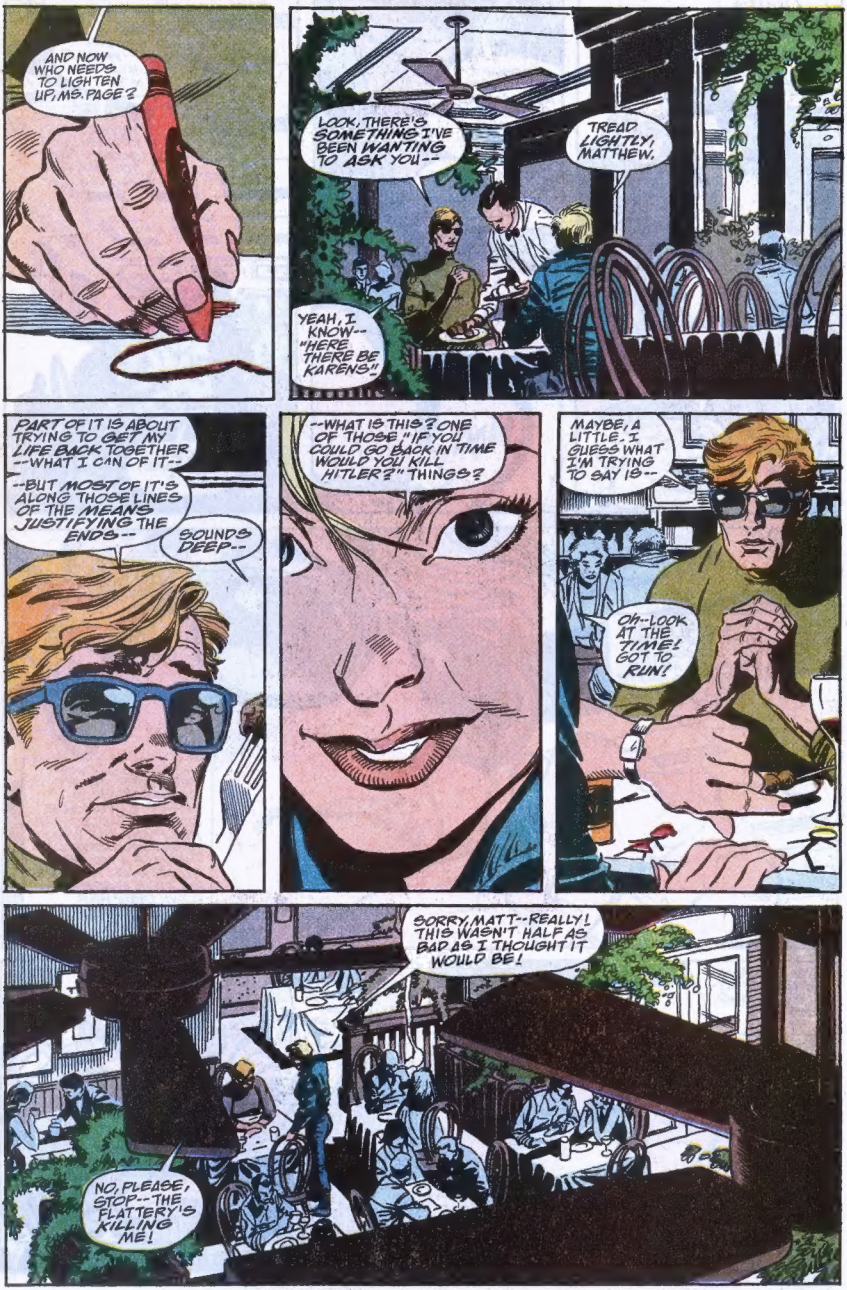
AS FOR ME... I'M JUST A GUY WHO LIKES TO TAKE RISKS.
DAREDEVIL!
HOW'SIT HANGIN', WILLIE?
"Men in general judge more by the sense of sight than by the sense of touch, because everyone can see but only a few can test by feeling. Everyone sees what you seem to be, few know what you really are; and those few do not dare take a stand against the general opinion."
-- Niccolo Machiavelli
PASSION PART I
A RECKONING IN FOUR PARTS by:
D.G. CHICHESTER WRITER
LEE WEEKS PENCILS
AL WILLIAMSON INKS
MAX SCHEELE COLORS
JACK MORELLI LETTERS
RALPH MACCHIO EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO CHIEF

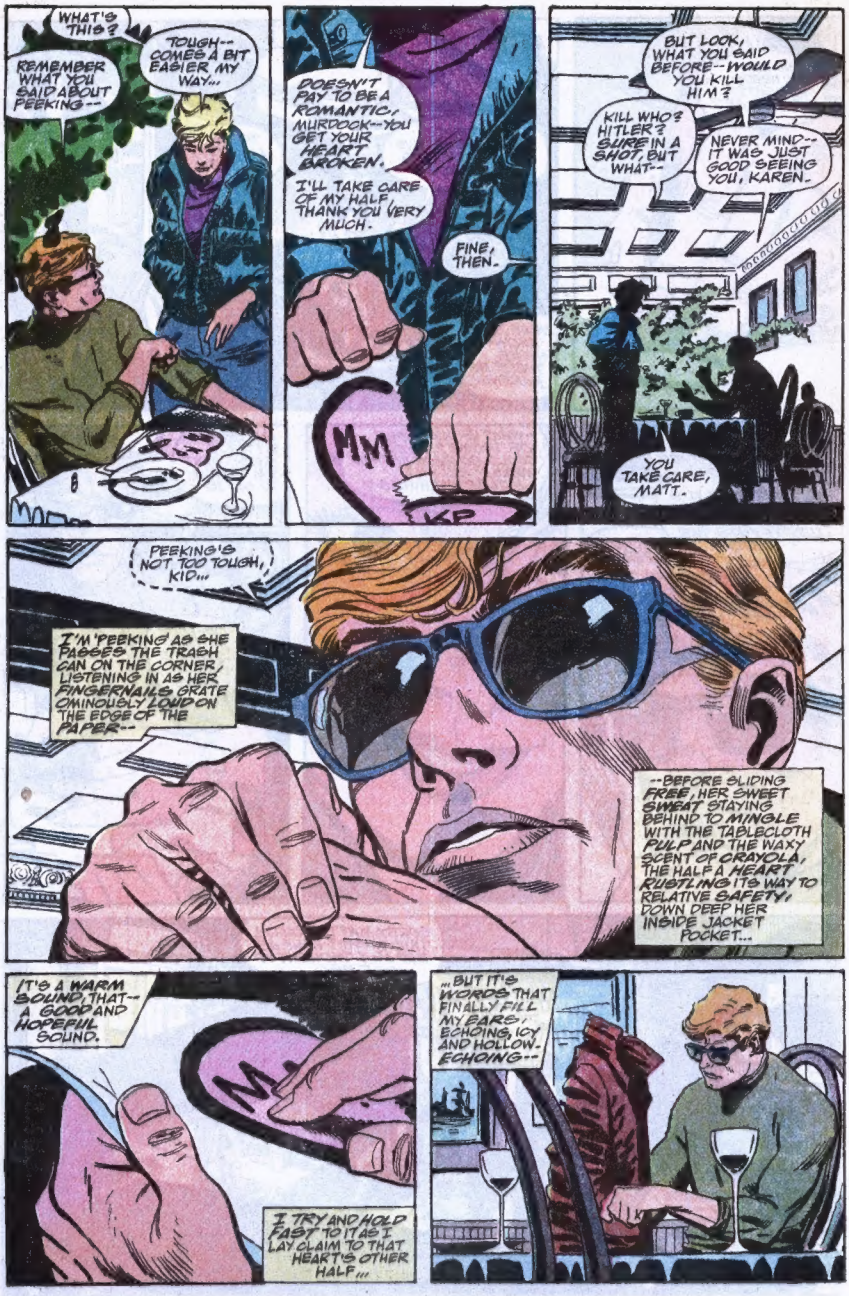

YOU SURPRISE ME, DAREDEVIL. SARDONIC VERBAL SPARRING IS MORE SPIDER-MAN'S FORTE THAN YOURS.
YOU'VE NOT BEEN REDUCED TO SLUMMING, I HOPE.
THAT'S NOT NICE-- TO ME OR THE ARACHNID.
BUT THEN, YOU'RE NOT REALLY A VERY NICE MAN ARE YOU, WILLIE?
CERTAINLY YOU DIDN'T BYPASS MY SECURITY SYSTEM TO DISCUSS MY DISPOSITION.
THE POINT IF YOU WOULD... I HAVE A BUSINESS TO RUN... SEVERAL OF THEM AS A MATTER OF FACT.
WHAT HAPPENED, WILSON? THAT LINE ABOUT JUST IMPORTING/EXPORTING SPICES FINALLY RUN A LITTLE THIN FOR A GUY WHO OWNS A SKYSCRAPER..?
I HEAR THE TV STATION'S A REAL WINNER-- IF YOU'RE INTO RATINGS BY WAY OF RACISM AND YELLOW JOURNALISM, I SUPPOSE.
IT'S GOOD WORK IF YOU CAN GET IT.
NASTY BUSINESS ABOUT YOUR ALTER-EGO'S LAW LICENSE BEING PULLED, BY THE WAY, HOW IS THE UNEMPLOYMENT LINE THESE DAYS?
C'MON DOWN ANYTIME.
I THINK NOT. MY MEDIA ENTERPRISE HAS PROVED ITSELF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL INDEPENDENT STATION EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI.
"I'D OFFER YOU A FREE CABLE SUBSCRIPTION FOR YOUR APARTMENT..."
...OH, BUT THEN YOU DON'T HAVE AN APARTMENT, DO YOU?
YOU'D BE THE ONE TO KNOW, WILLIE-- YOU'RE THE ONE BLEW UP MY BROWNSTONE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

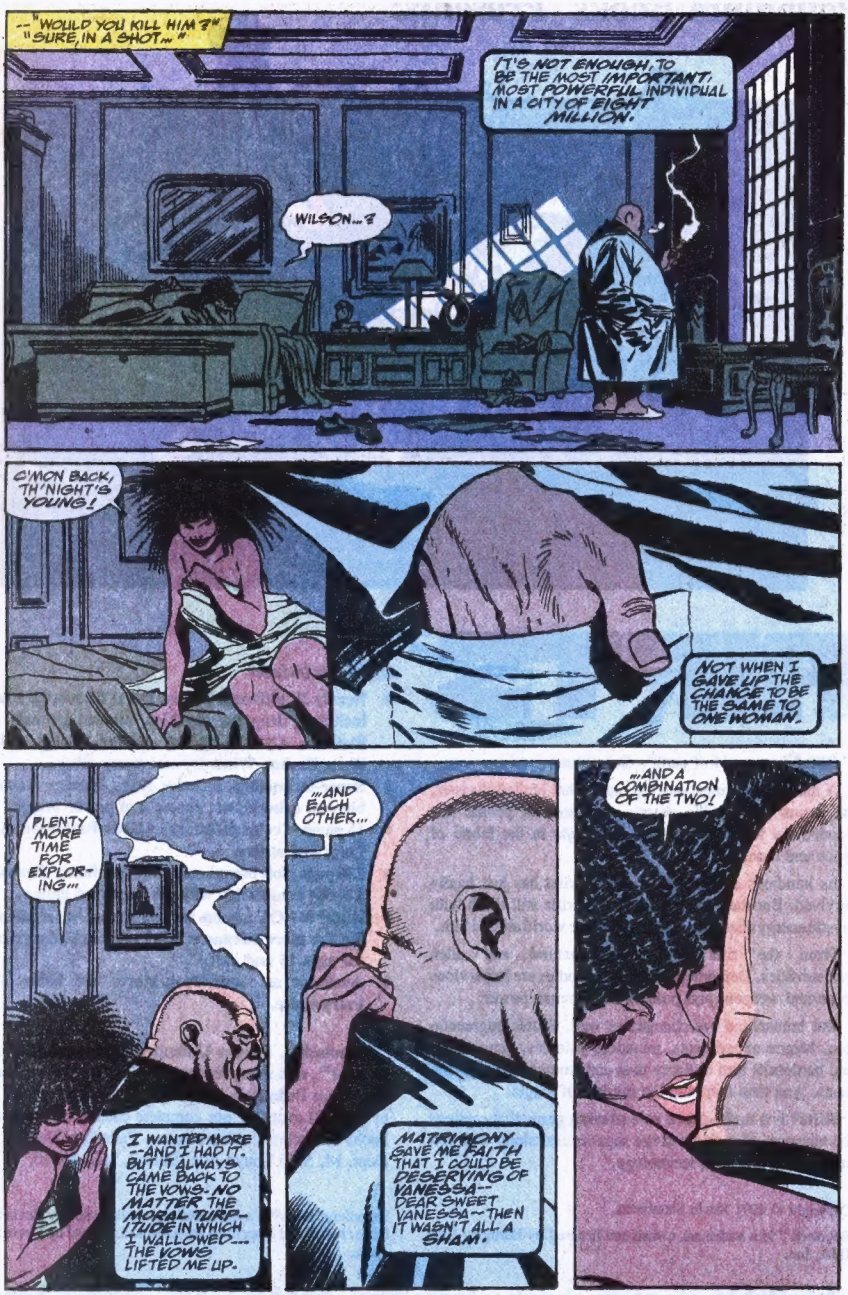
BLEW IT UP REEEAL GOOD.
ODD MATTER TO DEVELOP A SENSE OF HUMOR AROUND, DAREDEVIL.
OH, I DON'T KNOW... I FIND ALL SORTS OF THINGS TO LAUGH ABOUT THESE DAYS.
WFAT
SU
ST
THAT WILL DO... THAT WILL DO!!
I'VE PERMITTED THESE TIRESOME TETE-A-TETE'S IN MY OFFICE ON MY TIME FOR FAR TOO LONG! THEY ARE CONCLUDED--THIS IS THE LAST!
TRUTH BE TOLD--
TRUTH, WILLIE?? YOU?
SURELY YOU JEST!
WHAT ARE YOU SMILING AT YOU PATHETIC, COSTUMED--
STOP IT-- STOP SMILING!
AND GET OUT! OUT OF MY OFFICE, MY BUILDINGS, AND OUT OF MY LIFE; ONCE AND FOR--
STOP SMILING!!

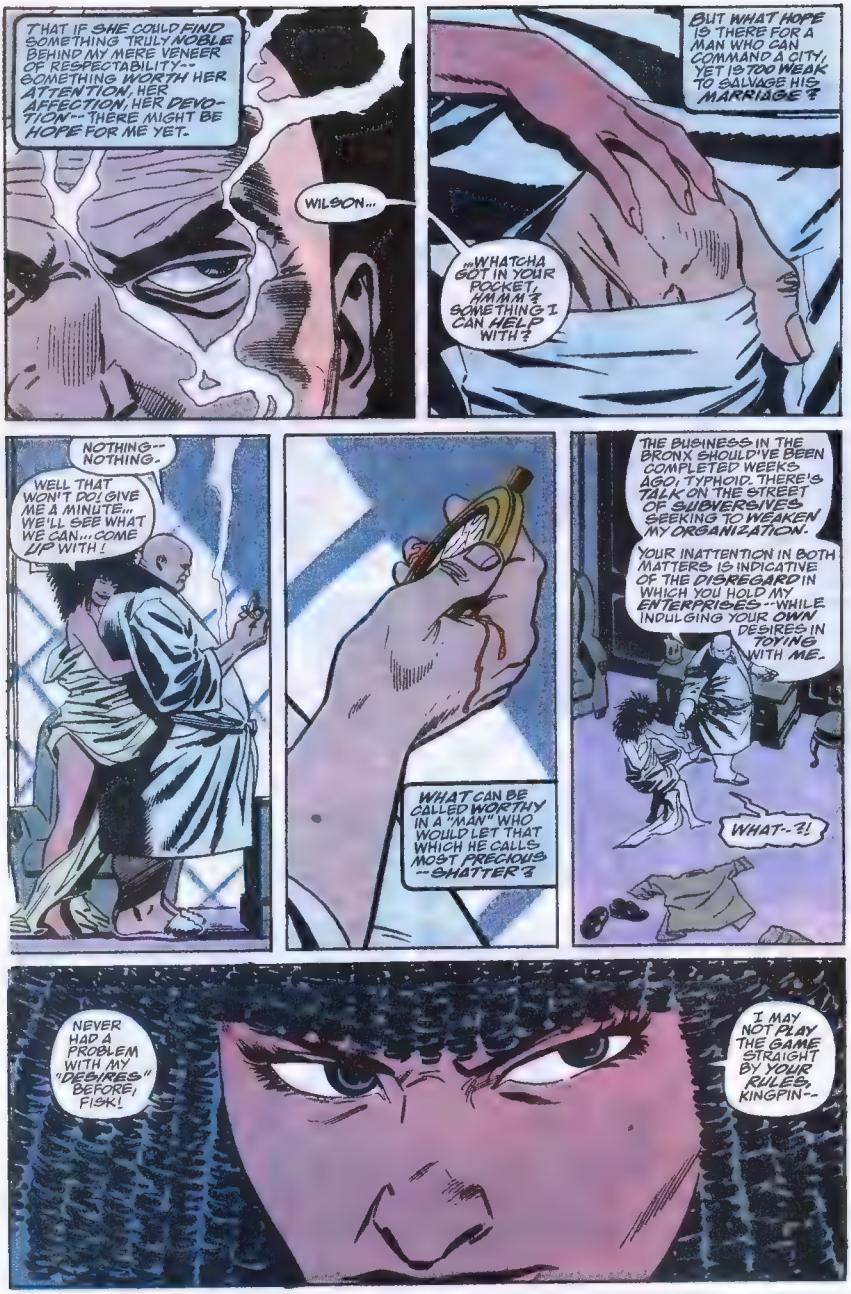

HYPER-ACUTE SENSES SMELL THE ACRID SWEAT SOAKING THE RICH FABRIC OF HIS SUIT, HEAR THE TRIP-HAMMERING OF A RACING HEART.
MALTESE, INFORM SECURITY THAT WHILE IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THEY'LL ENCOUNTER DAREDEVIL ON HIS WAY OUT OF THE BUILDING--
I WILL NEVERTHELESS BE PAYING $1000.00 FOR EACH OF HIS TEETH-
KLK
HE'S ON THE EDGE--EXACTLY WHERE HE NEEDED TO BE LED TO SEE WHAT I'D BROUGHT TO SHOW HIM.
PURPOSELY LOST IN THE CLUTTERED BACK CORNERS OF HIS DESK DRAWERS, BROUGHT OUT FROM HIDING BY RADAR SENSE AND HOPE.
CRAFTED BY ARTISANS TO FRAME A COLD MAN'S SINGLE BURNING PASSION...
HMM?
"...A WOMAN AS INNOCENT AS HE IS CORRUPT, AN ANCHOR OF DECENCY IN THE BLACK SEA UPON WHICH HE SAILED.
MY GOD... WHERE DID...??
CONSCIOUSLY FORSOTTEN WHEN SHE CHOSE HER OWN LIFE OVER THE EXCUSE OF HIS...
"...CAST FROM MEMORY IN FAVOR OF THE EASY PLEASURES OF A TYPHOID MARY..."
BUT KEPT--IN A DARK PLACE--A SECRET PLACE--WAITING TO BE BROUGHT BACK INTO THE LIGHT.
TO BE THE LIGHT.
V-VANESSA... VANESSA...
TO REAWAKEN THE HUMAN PART OF WILSON FISK.
I'M SORRY...
THE VULNERABLE PART.

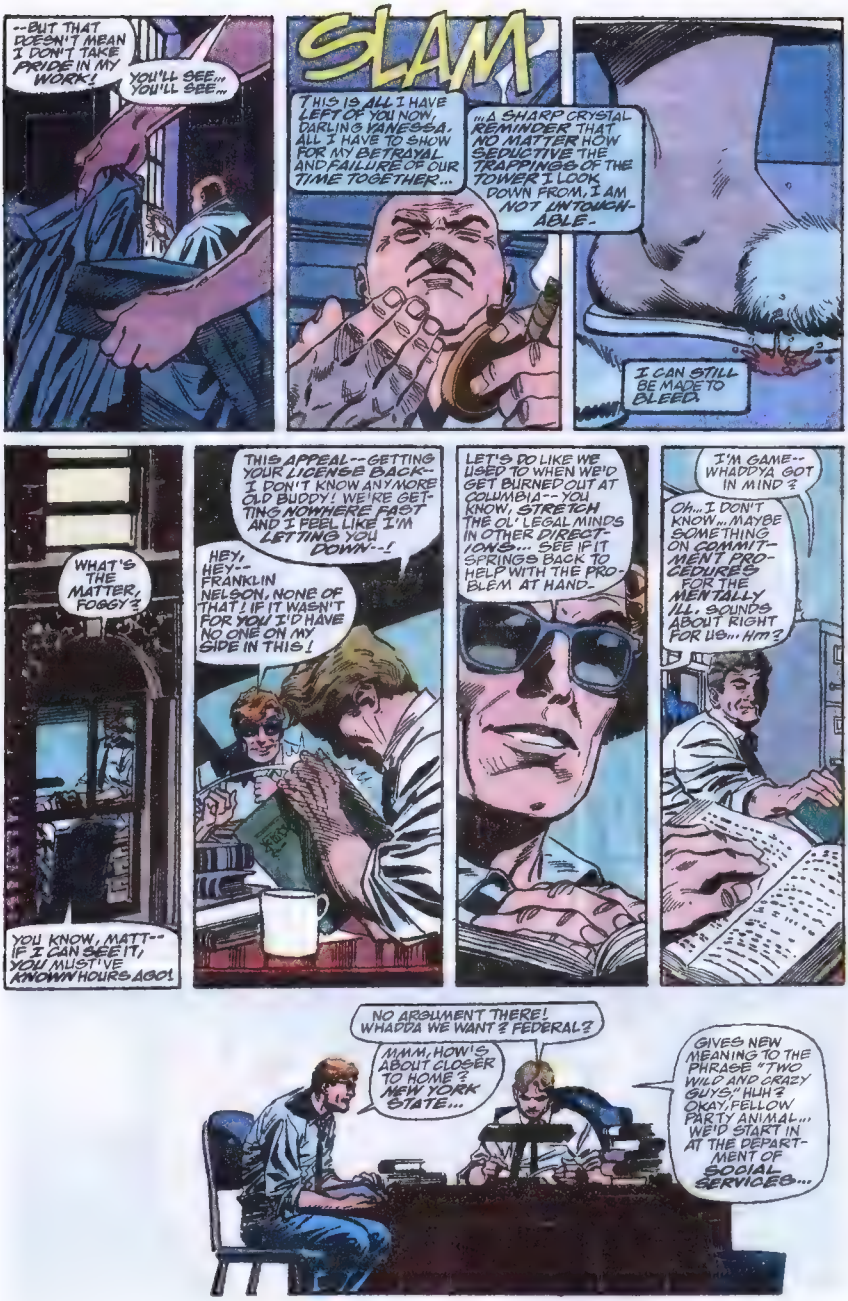
"WE COULD'VE GOTTEN A BOOTH, KAREN. THEY HAVE BOOTHS."
DON'T PUSH IT, MATT--I WANNA KEEP SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN US, OKAY?
A TABLE'S FINE.
TABLE'S FINE. NOT PUSHING ANYTHING.
I HOPE YOU USED TO HIDE THAT NERVOUS TWITCH IN YOUR VOICE FROM THE JURY...
...THEN AGAIN, JUST HOW MANY OF YOUR CLIENTS DID GET OFF?
ALL OF THEM!
NO KIDDING! LIGHTEN UP ALREADY, MURDOCK! ISN'T THAT WHY WE'RE HERE? TO HAVE SOME FUN?
I HOPED IT WAS TO TRY TO KEEP TWO PEOPLE WHO USED TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER THAN ANYBODY FROM BECOMING STRANGERS...
...WHADDA YOU GOT THERE?
DON'T GET HEAVY ON ME...
HEY! NO FAIR PEEKING!
UH-OH. MAYBE THAT'S A LOST HOPE.
WARNED YOU ABOUT PEEKING!
PEEKING'S KINDA TOUGH FOR A BLIND GUY... DON'T YOU THINK?
RIGHT, WHATEVER YOU CALL THAT HYPER-SENSITIVE FINGERTIP READING THING.

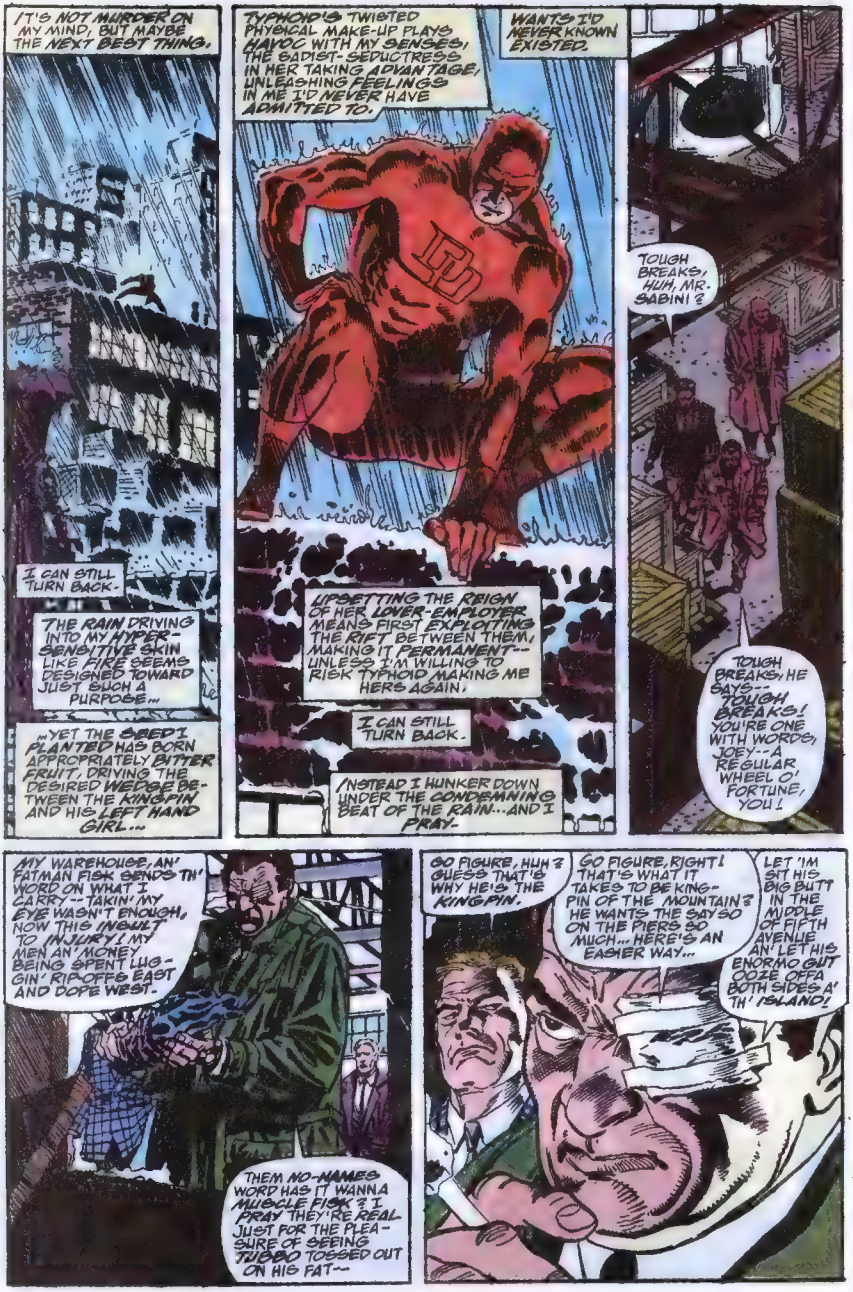

AND NOW WHO NEEDS TO LIGHTEN UP, MS. PAGE?
LOOK, THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN WANTING TO ASK YOU--
TREAD LIGHTLY, MATTHEW.
YEAH, I KNOW-- "HERE THERE BE KARENS."
PART OF IT IS ABOUT TRYING TO GET MY LIFE BACK TOGETHER --WHAT I CAN OF IT--
--BUT MOST OF IT'S ALONG THOSE LINES OF THE MEANS JUSTIFYING THE ENDS--
SOUNDS DEEP--
--WHAT IS THIS? ONE OF THOSE "IF YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME WOULD YOU KILL HITLER?" THINGS?
MAYBE, A LITTLE. I GUESS WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS--
OH--LOOK AT THE TIME! GOT TO RUN!
SORRY, MATT--REALLY! THIS WASN'T HALF AS BAD AS I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE!
NO, PLEASE, STOP--THE FLATTERY'S KILLING ME!

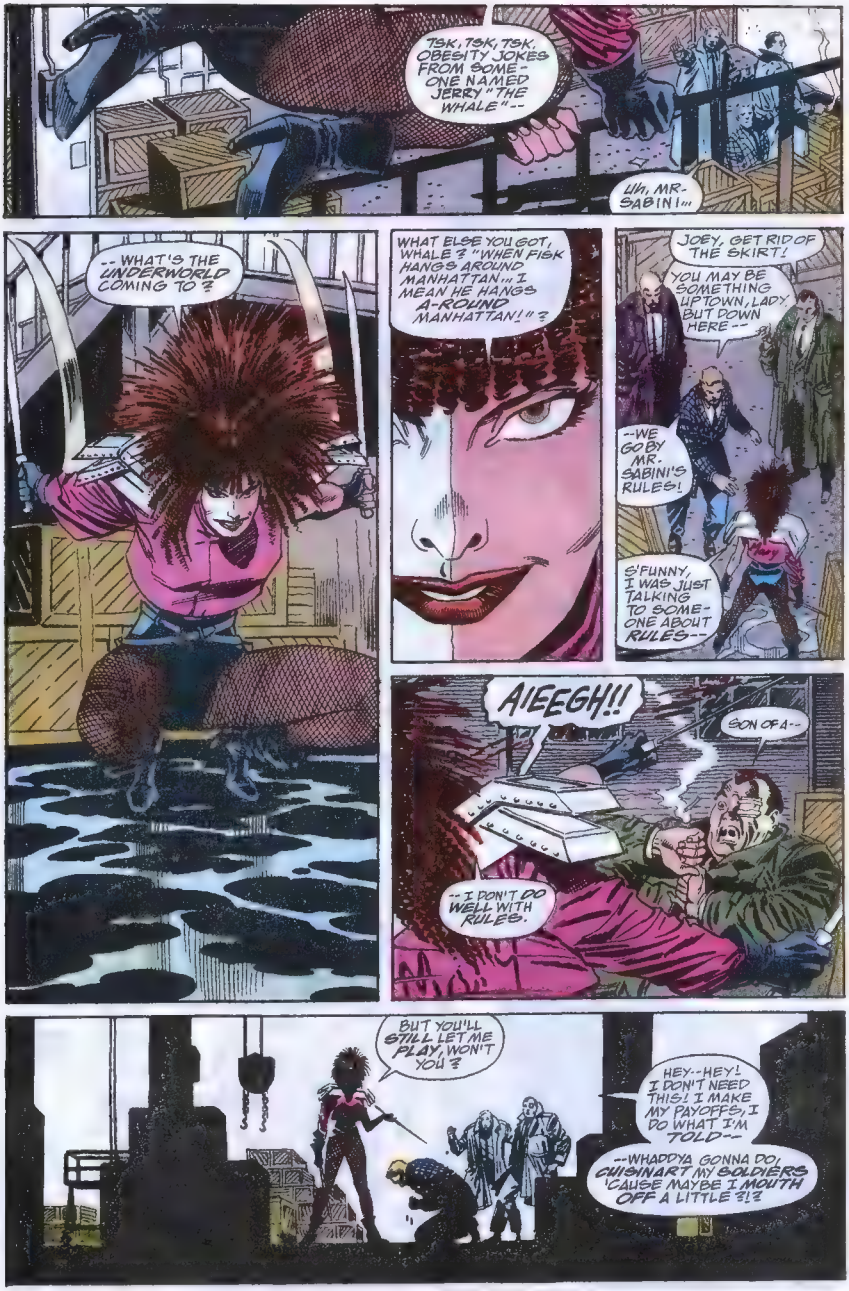

WHAT'S THIS?
REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT PEEKING--
TOUGH-- COMES A BIT EASIER MY WAY...
DOESN'T PAY TO BE A ROMANTIC, MURDOCK--YOU GET YOUR HEART BROKEN.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF MY HALF, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
FINE, THEN.
MM
KP
BUT LOOK, WHAT YOU SAID BEFORE--WOULD YOU KILL HIM?
KILL WHO? HITLER? SURE IN A SHOT, BUT WHAT--
NEVER MIND-- IT WAS JUST GOOD SEEING YOU, KAREN.
YOU TAKE CARE, MATT.
PEEKING'S NOT TOO TOUGH, KID...
I'M 'PEEKING' AS SHE PASSES THE TRASH CAN ON THE CORNER, LISTENING IN AS HER FINGERNAILS GRATE OMINOUSLY LOUD ON THE EDGE OF THE PAPER--
--BEFORE SLIDING FREE, HER SWEET SWEAT STAYING BEHIND TO MINGLE WITH THE TABLECLOTH PULP AND THE WAXY SCENT OF CRAYOLA, THE HALF A HEART RUSTLING ITS WAY TO RELATIVE SAFETY, DOWN DEEP HER INSIDE JACKET POCKET...
IT'S A WARM SOUND, THAT-- A GOOD AND HOPEFUL SOUND.
I TRY AND HOLD FAST TO IT AS I LAY CLAIM TO THAT HEART'S OTHER HALF...
...BUT IT'S WORDS THAT FINALLY FILL MY EARS: ECHOING, ICY AND HOLLOW. ECHOING--

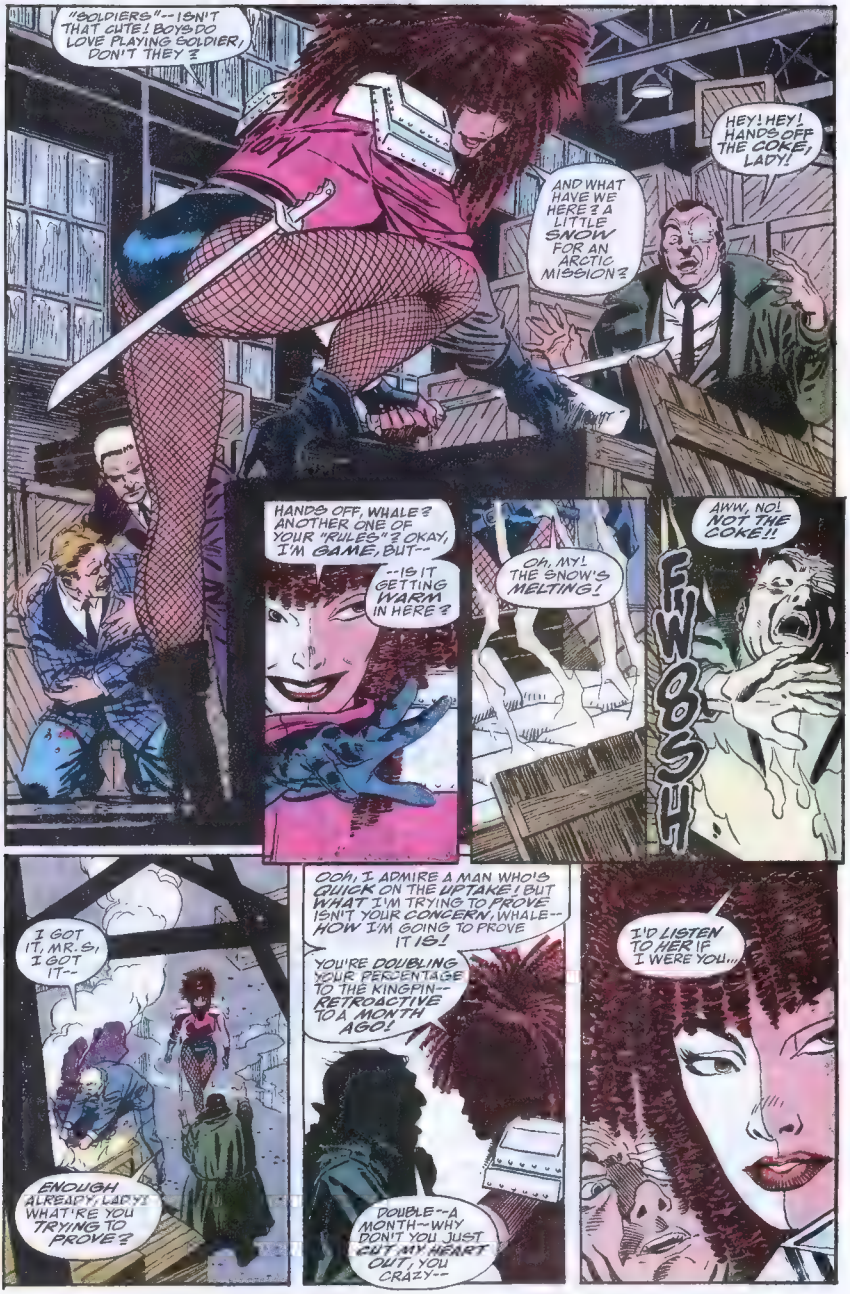

--"WOULD YOU KILL HIM?" "SURE, IN A SHOT..."
IT'S NOT ENOUGH, TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT, MOST POWERFUL INDIVIDUAL IN A CITY OF EIGHT MILLION.
WILSON...?
C'MON BACK, TH'NIGHT'S YOUNG!
NOT WHEN I GAVE UP THE CHANCE TO BE THE SAME TO ONE WOMAN.
PLENTY MORE TIME FOR EXPLOR-ING...
I WANTED MORE --AND I HAD IT. BUT IT ALWAYS CAME BACK TO THE VOWS. NO MATTER THE MORAL TURP-ITUDE IN WHICH I WALLOWED... THE VOWS LIFTED ME UP.
"...AND EACH OTHER...
MATRIMONY GAVE ME FAITH THAT I COULD BE DESERVING OF VANESSA-- DEAR SWEET VANESSA-- THEN IT WASN'T ALL A SHAM.
"...AND A COMBINATION OF THE TWO!


THAT IF SHE COULD FIND SOMETHING TRULY NOBLE BEHIND MY MERE VENEER OF RESPECTABILITY--SOMETHING WORTH HER ATTENTION, HER AFFECTION, HER DEVOTION--THERE MIGHT BE HOPE FOR ME YET.
WILSON...
BUT WHAT HOPE IS THERE FOR A MAN WHO CAN COMMAND A CITY, YET IS TOO WEAK TO SALVAGE HIS MARRIAGE?
...WHATCHA GOT IN YOUR POCKET, HMMM? SOMETHING I CAN HELP WITH?
NOTHING--NOTHING.
WELL THAT WON'T DO! GIVE ME A MINUTE... WE'LL SEE WHAT WE CAN... COME UP WITH!
WHAT CAN BE CALLED WORTHY IN A "MAN" WHO WOULD LET THAT WHICH HE CALLS MOST PRECIOUS --SHATTER?
THE BUSINESS IN THE BRONX SHOULD'VE BEEN COMPLETED WEEKS AGO; TYPHOID. THERE'S TALK ON THE STREET OF SUBVERSIVES SEEKING TO WEAKEN MY ORGANIZATION.
YOUR INATTENTION IN BOTH MATTERS IS INDICATIVE OF THE DISREGARD IN WHICH YOU HOLD MY ENTERPRISES--WHILE INDULGING YOUR OWN DESIRES IN TOYING WITH ME.
WHAT--?!
NEVER HAD A PROBLEM WITH MY "DESIRES" BEFORE, FISK!
I MAY NOT PLAY THE GAME STRAIGHT BY YOUR RULES, KINGPIN--


--BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I DON'T TAKE PRIDE IN MY WORK!
YOU'LL SEE... YOU'LL SEE...
SLAM
THIS IS ALL I HAVE LEFT OF YOU NOW, DARLING VANESSA. ALL I HAVE TO SHOW FOR MY BETRAYAL AND FAILURE OF OUR TIME TOGETHER...
"...A SHARP CRYSTAL REMINDER THAT NO MATTER HOW SEDUCTIVE THE TRAPPINGS OF THE TOWER I LOOK DOWN FROM, I AM NOT UNTOUCHABLE.
I CAN STILL BE MADE TO BLEED.
WHAT'S THE MATTER, FOGGY?
YOU KNOW, MATT-- IF I CAN SEE IT, YOU MUST'VE KNOWN HOURS AGO!
THIS APPEAL--GETTING YOUR LICENSE BACK-- I DON'T KNOW ANYMORE OLD BUDDY! WE'RE GETTING NOWHERE FAST AND I FEEL LIKE I'M LETTING YOU DOWN--!
HEY, HEY-- FRANKLIN NELSON, NONE OF THAT! IF IT WASN'T FOR YOU I'D HAVE NO ONE ON MY SIDE IN THIS!
LET'S DO LIKE WE USED TO WHEN WE'D GET BURNED OUT AT COLUMBIA-- YOU KNOW, STRETCH THE OL' LEGAL MINDS IN OTHER DIRECTIONS... SEE IF IT SPRINGS BACK TO HELP WITH THE PROBLEM AT HAND.
I'M GAME-- WHADDYA GOT IN MIND?
OH... I DON'T KNOW... MAYBE SOMETHING ON COMMITMENT PROCEDURES FOR THE MENTALLY ILL. SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT FOR US... HM?
NO ARGUMENT THERE! WHADDA WE WANT? FEDERAL?
MMM, HOW'S ABOUT CLOSER TO HOME? NEW YORK STATE...
GIVES NEW MEANING TO THE PHRASE "TWO WILD AND CRAZY GUYS." HUH? OKAY, FELLOW PARTY ANIMAL... WE'D START IN AT THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES...

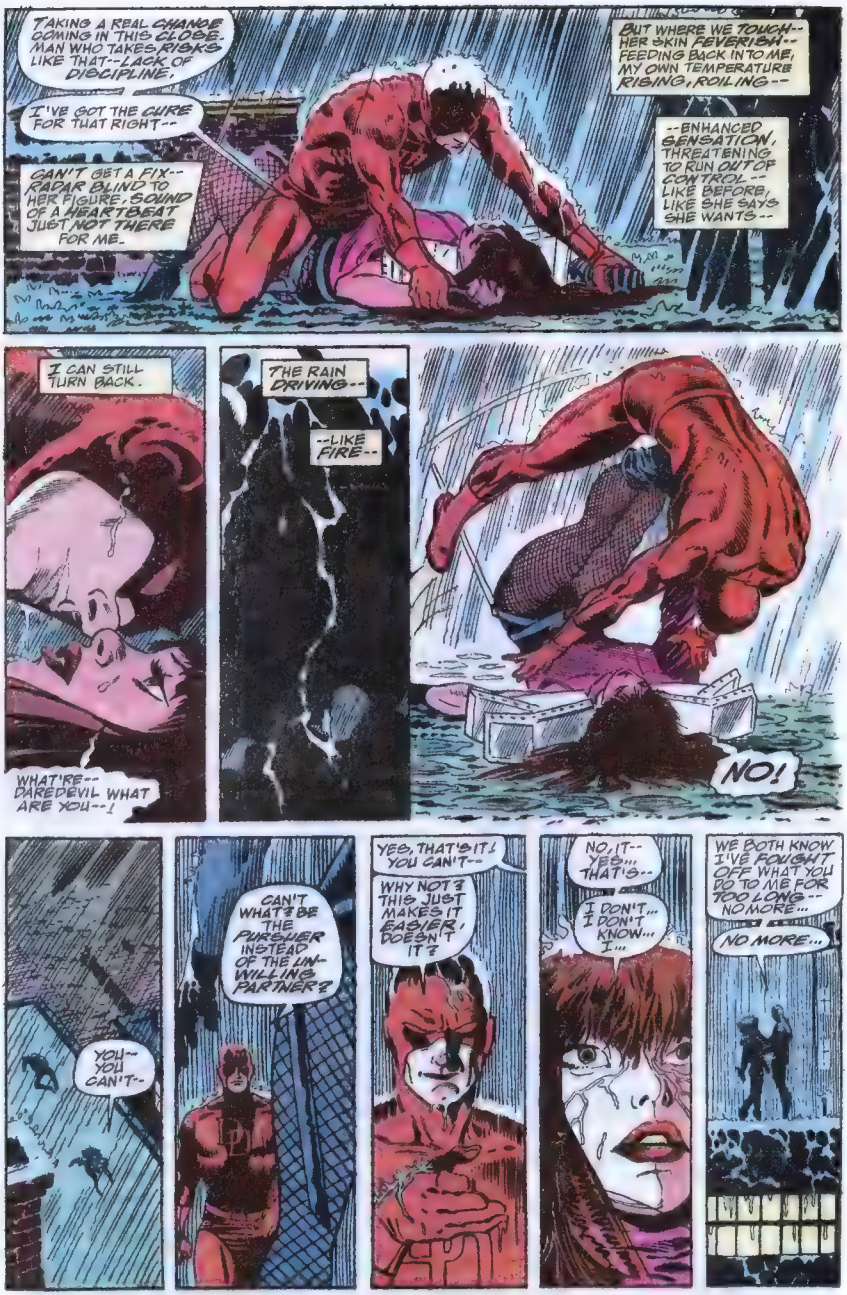

I'T'S NOT MURDER ON MY MIND, BUT MAYBE THE NEXT BEST THING.
I CAN STILL TURN BACK.
THE RAIN DRIVING INTO MY HYPER-SENSITIVE SKIN LIKE FIRE SEEMS DESIGNED TOWARD JUST SUCH A PURPOSE...
...YET THE SEED I PLANTED HAS BORN APPROPRIATELY BITTER FRUIT, DRIVING THE DESIRED WEDGE BE-TWEEN THE KINGPIN AND HIS LEFT HAND GIRL...
TYPHOID'S TWISTED PHYSICAL MAKE-UP PLAYS HAVOC WITH MY SENSES, THE SADIST-SEDUCTRESS IN HER TAKING ADVANTAGE, UNLEASHING FEELINGS IN ME I'D NEVER HAVE ADMITTED TO.
WANTS I'D NEVER KNOWN EXISTED.
UPSETTING THE REIGN OF HER LOVER-EMPLOYER MEANS FIRST EXPLOITING THE RIFT BETWEEN THEM, MAKING IT PERMANENT--UNLESS I'M WILLING TO RISK TYPHOID MAKING ME HERS AGAIN.
I CAN STILL TURN BACK.
INSTEAD I HUNKER DOWN UNDER THE CONDEMNING BEAT OF THE RAIN...AND I PRAY.
TOUGH BREAKS, HUH, MR. SABINI?
TOUGH BREAKS, HE SAYS--TOUGH BREAKS! YOU'RE ONE WITH WORDS, JOEY--A REGULAR WHEEL O' FORTUNE, YOU!
MY WAREHOUSE, AN' FATMAN FISK SENDS TH' WORD ON WHAT I CARRY--TAKIN' MY EYE WASN'T ENOUGH, NOW THIS INSULT TO INJURY! MY MEN AN' MONEY BEING SPENT LUG-GIN' RIPOFFS EAST AND DOPE WEST.
THEM NO-NAMES WORD HAS IT WANNA MUSCLE FISK? I PRAY THEY'RE REAL JUST FOR THE PLEA-SURE OF SEEING TUBBO TOSSED OUT ON HIS FAT--
GO FIGURE, HUH? I GUESS THAT'S WHY HE'S THE KINGPIN.
GO FIGURE, RIGHT! THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES TO BE KING-PIN OF THE MOUNTAIN? HE WANTS THE SAY SO ON THE PIERS SO MUCH... HERE'S AN EASIER WAY...
LET 'IM SIT HIS BIG BUTT IN THE MIDDLE OF FIFTH AVENUE AN' LET HIS ENORMO GUT OOZE OFFA BOTH SIDES A' TH' ISLAND!


TSK, TSK, TSK. OBESITY JOKES FROM SOMEONE NAMED JERRY "THE WHALE"--
UH, MR. SABINI...
-- WHAT'S THE UNDERWORLD COMING TO?
WHAT ELSE YOU GOT, WHALE? "WHEN FISK HANGS AROUND MANHATTAN... I MEAN HE HANGS A-ROUND MANHATTAN!"?
JOEY, GET RID OF THE SKIRT!
YOU MAY BE SOMETHING UPTOWN, LADY, BUT DOWN HERE--
--WE GO BY MR. SABINI'S RULES!
S'FUNNY, I WAS JUST TALKING TO SOMEONE ABOUT RULES--
AIEEGH!!
SON OF A--
--I DON'T DO WELL WITH RULES.
BUT YOU'LL STILL LET ME PLAY, WON'T YOU?
HEY--HEY! I DON'T NEED THIS! I MAKE MY PAYOFFS, I DO WHAT I'M TOLD--
--WHADDYA GONNA DO, CUISINART MY SOLDIERS 'CAUSE MAYBE I MOUTH OFF A LITTLE?!?

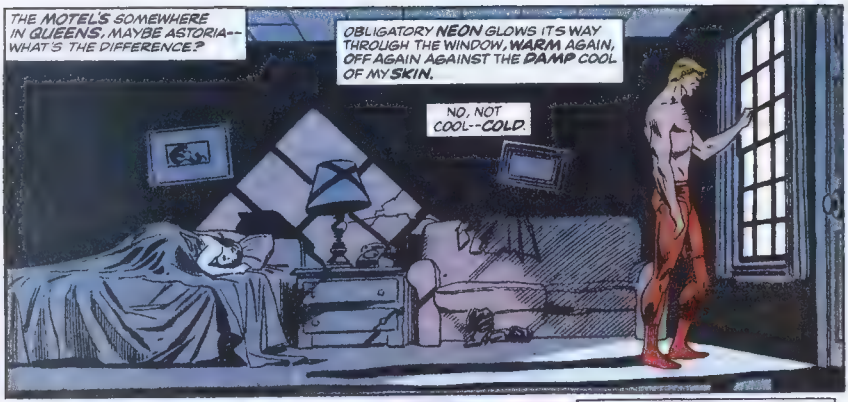

"SOLDIERS"--ISN'T THAT CUTE! BOYS DO LOVE PLAYING SOLDIER, DON'T THEY?
AND WHAT HAVE WE HERE? A LITTLE SNOW FOR AN ARCTIC MISSION?
HEY! HEY! HANDS OFF THE COKE, LADY!
HANDS OFF, WHALE? ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR "RULES"? OKAY, I'M GAME, BUT--
--IS IT GETTING WARM IN HERE?
OH, MY! THE SNOW'S MELTING!
AWW, NO! NOT THE COKE!!
FWOSH
I GOT IT, MR. S! I GOT IT--
ENOUGH ALREADY, LADY! WHAT'RE YOU TRYING TO PROVE?
OOH, I ADMIRE A MAN WHO'S QUICK ON THE UPTAKE! BUT WHAT I'M TRYING TO PROVE ISN'T YOUR CONCERN, WHALE--HOW I'M GOING TO PROVE IT IS!
YOU'RE DOUBLING YOUR PERCENTAGE TO THE KINGPIN--RETROACTIVE TO A MONTH AGO!
DOUBLE--A MONTH--WHY DON'T YOU JUST CUT MY HEART OUT, YOU CRAZY--
I'D LISTEN TO HER IF I WERE YOU...

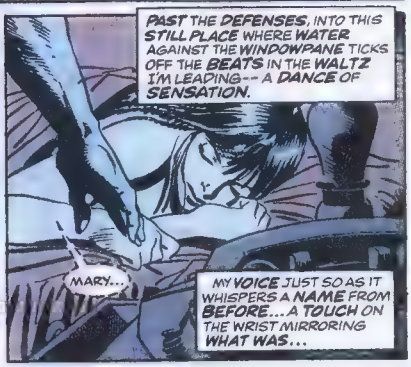
DAREDEVIL!
WHAT AN UNEXPECTED... PLEASURE!
ALL MINE, TYPHOID!
THANK GOD! DO THAT HERO THING, HORN-HEAD-- GET THIS CRAZY WITCH OUTTA--
SORRY, SABINI-- THAT "HERO THING" IS KIND OF MY BUSINESS... AND I'M HERE FOR PERSONAL REASONS.
ME AND YOU, TYPHOID, VERY PERSONAL.
I'M TOUCHED, RED. AFTER I ALMOST HAD YOU KILLED, I THOUGHT ...WELL, YOU JUST NEVER KNOW HOW SOME GUYS ARE GONNA TAKE SOMETHING LIKE THAT-
YOU REMEMBER WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT, WHALE-DOUBLE--
SMAK!
I LIKE YOU, WHALE-THAT'S WHY I'M ONLY GOUGING YOUR EMPTY EYE SOCKET.
AGGHH! GET OFFA MY EYE YOU--!
KRAKA-DOOM
I'M WAITING, TYPHOID!
NOT FOR LONG!

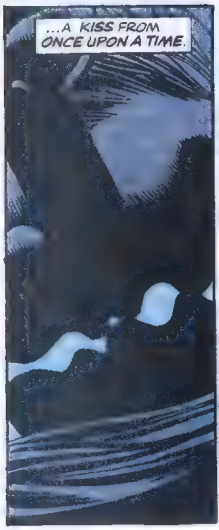
♪COME OUT ♫ COME OUT WHERE- EVER YOU ARE-♪
WHAT'S THE STORY, RED? NEVER TOOK YOU FOR A TEASE...
WE WON'T BE NEEDING THOSE TONIGHT!
THAT SO?
KLAKT
DOMINATION SOMETHING NEW YOU'RE INTO?
JUST WHAT IS IT YOU'VE GOT IN MIND, RED?
JUST THE TWO OF US, TYPHOID!


TAKING A REAL CHANCE COMING IN THIS CLOSE. MAN WHO TAKES RISKS LIKE THAT--LACK OF DISCIPLINE.
I'VE GOT THE CURE FOR THAT RIGHT--
CAN'T GET A FIX--RADAR BLIND TO HER FIGURE, SOUND OF A HEARTBEAT JUST NOT THERE FOR ME.
BUT WHERE WE TOUCH--HER SKIN FEVERISH--FEEDING BACK INTO ME, MY OWN TEMPERATURE RISING, ROILING--
--ENHANCED SENSATION, THREATENING TO RUN OUT OF CONTROL--LIKE BEFORE, LIKE SHE SAYS SHE WANTS--
I CAN STILL TURN BACK.
WHAT'RE--DAREDEVIL WHAT ARE YOU--!
THE RAIN DRIVING--
--LIKE FIRE--
NO!
YOU--YOU CAN'T--
CAN'T WHAT? BE THE PURSUER INSTEAD OF THE UNWILLING PARTNER?
YES, THAT'S IT! YOU CAN'T--
WHY NOT? THIS JUST MAKES IT EASIER, DOESN'T IT?
NO, IT--YES... THAT'S--
I DON'T... I DON'T KNOW... I...
WE BOTH KNOW I'VE FOUGHT OFF WHAT YOU DO TO ME FOR TOO LONG--NO MORE...
NO MORE...

WHEN I WAS JUST A BOY THE WORLD TOOK THE SIGHT FROM MY EYES, AND GAVE BACK EXTRA ON THE REMAINING SENSES TO TRY AND MAKE UP FOR THE LOSS,
NOW, AS A MAN, I LOSE MYSELF IN THE POWER OF THOSE SAME SENSES.
LORD HELP ME, I LOSE MYSELF...



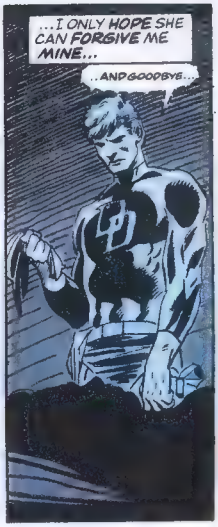


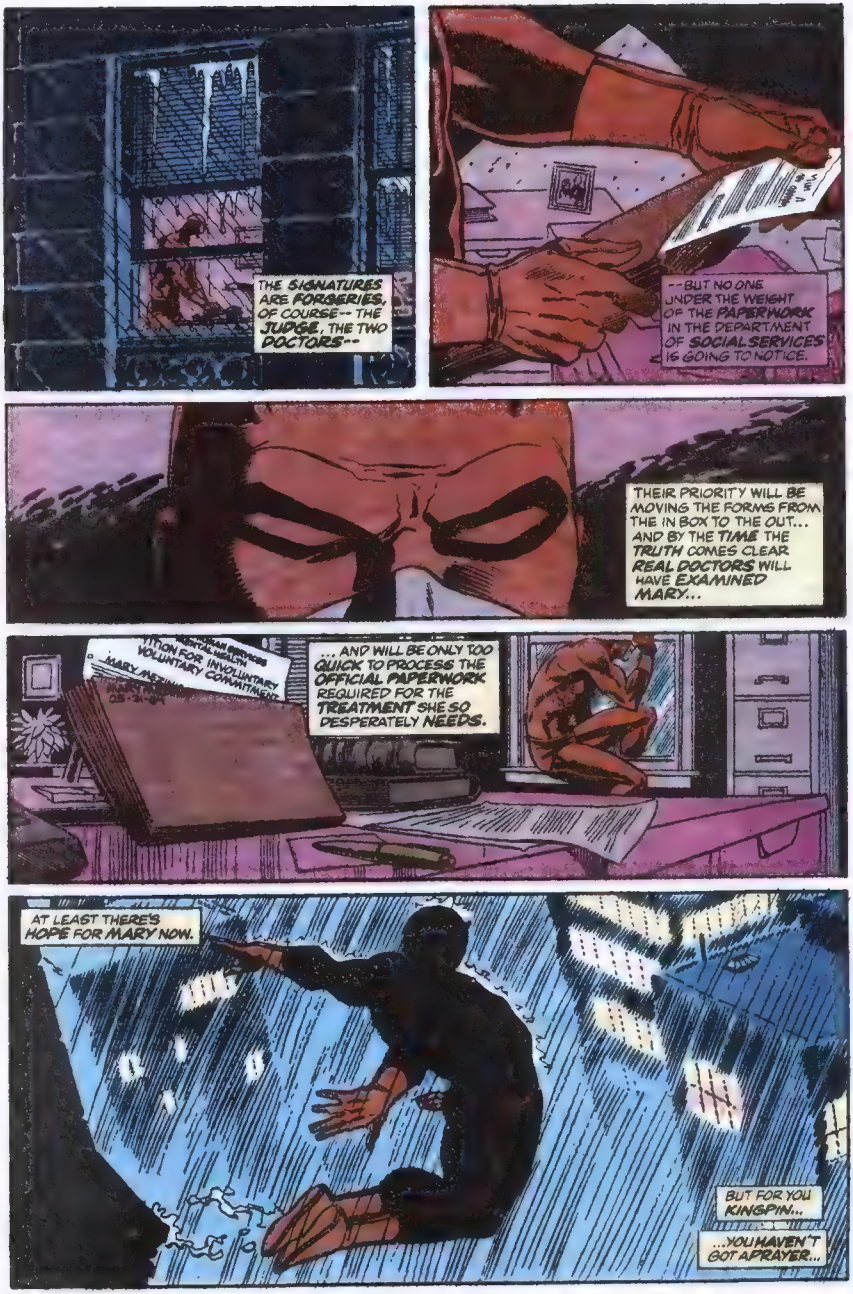


TONE, TEXTURE--THE LIMITED YET INFINITELY CLEAR WAYS THE WORLD PRESENTS ITSELF TO ME, THE MEDIUM IN WHICH I NOW PAINT A PICTURE OF YESTERDAY.

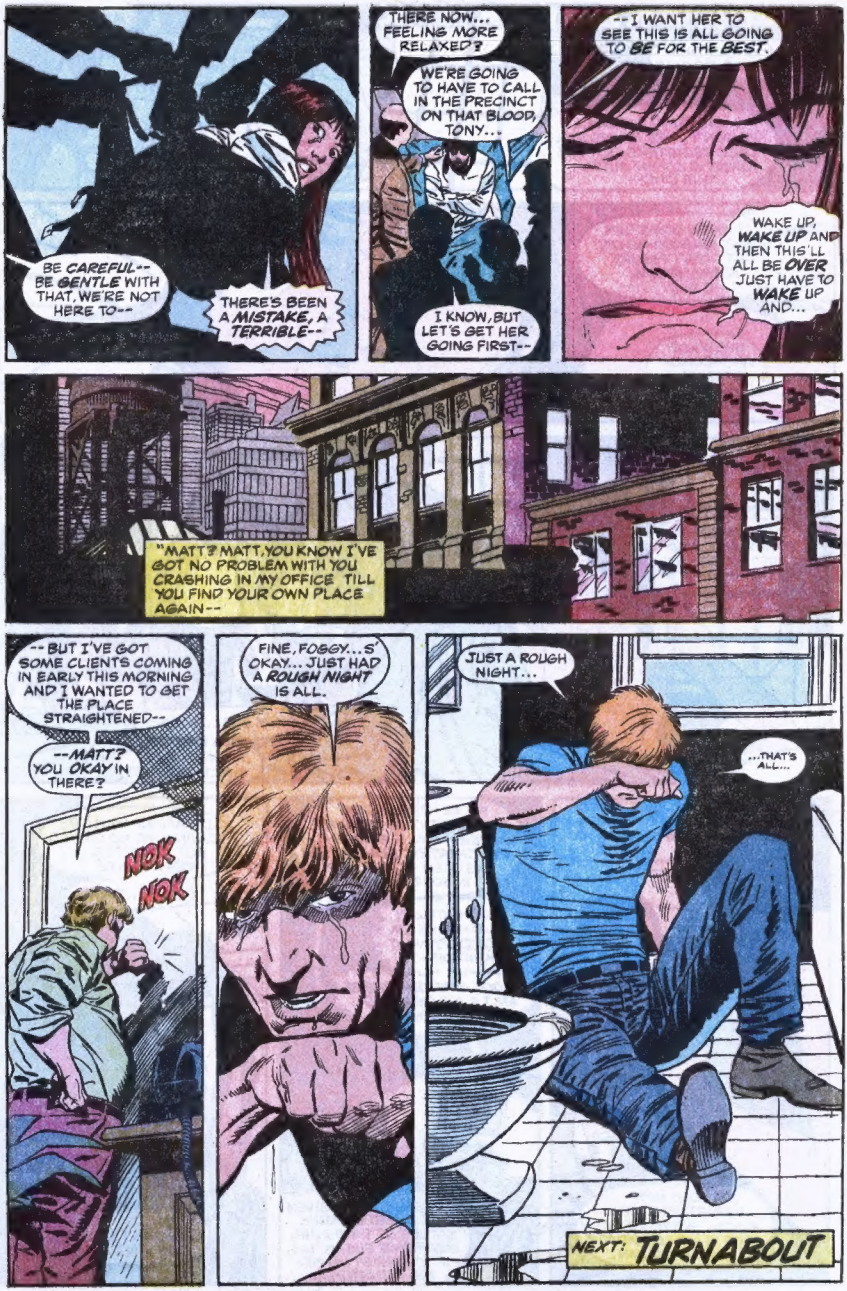
A REMINDER OF WARM WEATHER AND ROMANCE, ME AND HER...

...NO, NOT THE CRUEL SHROUD OF TYPHOID, BUT THE GENTEEL TRUTH OF THE KIND AND SIMPLE WOMAN BENEATH.




THE SIGNATURES ARE FORGERIES, OF COURSE-- THE JUDGE, THE TWO DOCTORS--
--BUT NO ONE UNDER THE WEIGHT OF THE PAPERWORK IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES IS GOING TO NOTICE.
THEIR PRIORITY WILL BE MOVING THE FORMS FROM THE IN BOX TO THE OUT... AND BY THE TIME THE TRUTH COMES CLEAR REAL DOCTORS WILL HAVE EXAMINED MARY...
VOLUNTARY COMMITMENT
...AND WILL BE ONLY TOO QUICK TO PROCESS THE OFFICIAL PAPERWORK REQUIRED FOR THE TREATMENT SHE SO DESPERATELY NEEDS.
AT LEAST THERE'S HOPE FOR MARY NOW.
BUT FOR YOU KINGPIN...
...YOU HAVEN'T GOT A PRAYER...

KNOK KNOK KNOK
MMM?
YOU'RE CERTAIN THIS IS THE ROOM?
OH, YEAH! I MEAN, WE DON'T KEEP NO HELMSLEY PLACE REGISTERS, BUT THE NOISE IS COMIN' OUTTA THIS ONE--
... I KNEW SOMETHIN FUNNY WAS GOING ON! JUST DIDN'T FIGURE FUNNY FARM, IS ALL!
SHE'S NOT ANSWERING-- OPEN IT, WILL YOU?
WHAT--?
HIYA, SWEETS.
THERE'S BLOOD ON THESE KNIVES TONY...
OH GOD, WHO--?! WHERE AM I, WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE?!
OKAY, SUE... THANKS.
MS. MEZINIS? MARY MEZINIS?
PLEASE, MARY, JUST STAY CALM-- OKAY IF I CALL YOU MARY?
I'M TONY HOYT, DEPARTMENT OF... SOCIAL SERVICES. THIS IS MY ASSOCIATE SUSAN CALKIN.
WE'RE HERE UNDER ADVISEMENT OF A COURT ORDER-- UM, IT SEEMS A PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATION HAS BEEN SCHEDULED IN YOUR NAME.
PSYCHIATRIC?! WHAT-- LIKE I'M CRAZY?! WHAT KIND OF--?!
LOOK, WHERE--WHERE AM I? I-I DEMAND TO KNOW--
PLEASE, MARY, GIVEN THE QUESTIONABLE NATURE OF THOSE, UH, WEAPONS SUSAN HAS, IF YOU INSIST ON BEING IRRATIONAL...
I'M AFRAID YOU'LL BE LEAVING ME NO CHOICE BUT TO ORDER RESTRAINTS.
JACK... TINA...
NO... THIS CAN'T BE... THIS ISN'T...


BE CAREFUL-- BE GENTLE WITH THAT, WE'RE NOT HERE TO--
THERE'S BEEN A MISTAKE, A TERRIBLE--
THERE NOW... FEELING MORE RELAXED?
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO CALL IN THE PRECINCT ON THAT BLOOD, TONY...
I KNOW, BUT LET'S GET HER GOING FIRST--
--I WANT HER TO SEE THIS IS ALL GOING TO BE FOR THE BEST.
WAKE UP, WAKE UP AND THEN THIS'LL ALL BE OVER JUST HAVE TO WAKE UP AND...
"MATT? MATT, YOU KNOW I'VE GOT NO PROBLEM WITH YOU CRASHING IN MY OFFICE TILL YOU FIND YOUR OWN PLACE AGAIN--
--BUT I'VE GOT SOME CLIENTS COMING IN EARLY THIS MORNING AND I WANTED TO GET THE PLACE STRAIGHTENED--
--MATT? YOU OKAY IN THERE?
NOK NOK
FINE, FOGGY... S' OKAY... JUST HAD A ROUGH NIGHT IS ALL.
JUST A ROUGH NIGHT...
...THAT'S ALL...
NEXT: TURNABOUT

BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hi, Heroes.

I've got a Hulk-sized problem that needs your indulgence! There's a great new book coming off the presses which I know you won't want to miss. But if I urge you to buy it, it'll seem as if I'm huckstering a product, and you know that Mr. Sincerity would never ever be guilty of such a thing! Yet, if I don't tell you, I'll be doing the hapless hordes of Marveldom a grave and irrevokable injustice!

Therefore, I'll simply tip you off to this incredibly wonderful publication without mentioning anything about your buying it. The act of purchasing is up to you, while the blameless act of enlightenment is my responsibility! A sneaky solution perhaps, but we live in a savage world!

So here's the skinny — and it's a blast! Harry N. Abrams, one of the world's most prestigious publishers of art books, has just produced a mammoth-sized, super deluxe, full-color, four hundred pages-plus history of Marvel Comics called (logically enough) "MARVEL, Five Fabulous Decades of the World's Greatest Comics"! Not only will you find it in thousands of comics shops, but also wherever books are sold in the finest and most exclusive book stores throughout the world!

Profusely illustrated and lavishly colored, expensive but worth every penny, "MARVEL" will introduce you to virtually every artist, writer and editor who's ever contributed to the glory of comicdom's most honored bullpen! Additionally, you'll see examples of artwork which were formerly available only in select galleries and private collections!

Unquestionably the greatest gift for anyone who's ever thrilled to the Marvel mystique, who's ever shared the fun and excitement of the most renowned super hero sagas, "MARVEL" is an adventure into rediscovery and a cornucopia of memories! It even contains a glowing introduction by yours truly, but hey, nothing's perfect!

Okay, I kept my word! I didn't tell you to buy the big, magnificent, treasure trove of comics called "MARVEL, Five Fabulous Decades of the World's Greatest Comics!" But after you see it, I dare you not to!

Excelsior!

Stan Lee

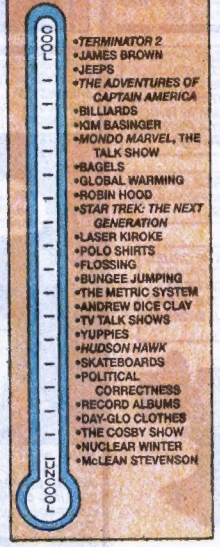
Change. It's all around us. Not just the kind that you find in your pockets or on the sidewalks. We're talking about the types of change you find in *life*. Change affects all of us in our everyday lives, from the highest big shot smarty pants executive, all the way down to the lowliest most humble working stiff. Here at Marvel, we like to think we're part of the great galactic food chain, just producing our share of consumables to prevent us from being consumed. And as you can imagine, a company of our size goes through a lot of changes.

Just as Col. Blake was replaced by Col. Potter . . . just as Mr. Roper was replaced by Mr. Furley . . . just as Dick Sargent was replaced by Dick York (or was it the other way around? We never could get that straight.) so, too, do changes occur here in the Marvel offices.

Sometimes all it takes is for one guy to leave, and that sets off a flurry of movement, a burst of motion, a sudden gust of activity, with winds up to 90 miles per hour. It all started when AVENGERS editor **Howard Mackie,** who may already be a winner in the Publishers' Clearinghouse Giveaway, announced he was going freelance. Since Howard's GHOST RIDER series has proven to be the hottest thing since tofutti, Howard felt the time was right to bolt from his staff position like a motorcyclist out of Hades.

As soon as he found out Howard was on the verge of leaving, **Len Kaminski,** who is not a doctor but he plays one on TV, skedaddled over to the office of **Ralph Macchio** (who is quick with a joke or a light of your smoke). This necessitated Howard hiring a new assistant, **Richard Ashford,** who speaks two languages — British and English. With Howard out of the picture, Richard was left without a boss. Since most of Howard's books were going to **Nel Yomtov,** who never could tell which one was Starsky and which one was Hutch, Richard decided he would go with them and he wound up as Nel's assistant.

In all the hubbub, **Tom Brevoort,** who's never seen a purple cow (and hopes he never sees one) was promoted to managing editor, with **Sarra Mossoff** (who'd rather see than be one) signing on as *his* assistant. Tom is now responsible for MARVEL MASTERWORKS and the all-new monthly DEATHLOK series. **Kelly Corvese** (who didn't understand *Twin Peaks,* but thinks he's finally figured out who shot J.R.) was also promoted to Managing Editor, and one of his first projects will be launching an all-new LUKE CAGE series! With Kelly moving out, this left **Terry Kavanagh,** who has been alive forever and wrote the very first song, without an assistant. So Terry hired former editorial assistant **Mark Powers,** who, say what you will about him, at least he got the trains to run on time. .



Somewhere in the middle of all this commotion, **Glenn Herdling,** who if he could walk that way wouldn't need the talcum powder, was promoted to Submissions Editor. Beaming aboard as his assistant was **Pat Garrahy,** who remembers only *you* can prevent forest fires. Glenn and Pat will also be working on custom comics, and the semi-regular DESTROYER series (which works out well, as both Glenn and Pat are semi-regular kinds of guys).

Amidst all this hoopla, we bid a fond farewell to staff letterer supreme **Chris Eliopolous,** who's badder than old King Kong and meaner than a junkyard dog. Chris, too, has joined Howard Mackie in the wild and wacky world of freelance. Taking Chris's place on staff was **John Babcock,** who would like to both swing on a star and carry Moonbeams home in a jar . . . if only he could find a big enough jar.

We also bid a fond farewell to Bullpenner **Bettie Ringma,** who could run the fifty yard dash in under an hour. Bettie's replacement is **Fung Ming Ma,** who hails from Hong Kong, and walks softly but carries a big stick. Fung Ming picked a good time to join the Marvel staff, since many of your favorite Bullpenners will be appearing in this month's issue of SPIDER-MAN (#15)! This issue features the Impossible Man, who has always wanted his own comic book, and will stop at nothing to get it! Spidey's in there, too, of course, trying to stop Impy from destroying the Marvel offices! There are plenty of surprise guests, who are so offbeat, we couldn't even begin to name them! (Toxic Avenger, Night Cat — ooops, sorry. We couldn't resist.) But wait — you haven't heard the best part yet. The cover of each issue of SPIDER-MAN #15 will be individually numbered! No two will be exactly the same! There will only be several hundred thousand copies printed, so you'll have to act fast to get one of each! Collect them all!

In closing, we'll note one final change that recently occurred.

It was with heavy hearts and heavy hands that we said goodbye to the NEW MUTANTS after its 100th issue. Alas, the book had stopped living up to its title after issue one. Clearly something had to be done. And so, it is with great pomp and circumstance that this month we introduce the all-new X-FORCE #1, thus fulfilling our postal obligation to have at least four titles beginning with the letter "X." Each copy of X-FORCE #1 will include one of four different trading cards, so you may want to consider taking a second job. You're going to need extra income by the time the all-new X-MEN #1 comes out in August!

Remember, you don't have to buy one copy of *every* Marvel Comic every month . . . but it sure helps!

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

RALPH MACCHIO: EDITOR — LEN KAMINSKI: ASSISTANT EDITOR
C/O MARVEL COMICS — 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH — NEW YORK, NEW YORK — 10016

ATTENTION CORRESPONDENTS: ALL LETTERS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR PUBLICATION MUST INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS THOUGH WE WILL WITHHOLD THAT INFO BY REQUEST!

Dear Ralph,

As the reins are passed from one pair of hands to another, let us pause and give thanks to one who has contributed so much to DAREDEVIL.

To hell and back
Our hero came.
The journey's only promise:
He'd never be the same.
Kingpin, inferno
Bullet, Typhoid Mary;
Courageously he faced them
With spirit, strikes and parry.
Politics, the environment;
Timely issues always aplenty.
The pilgrimage relentlessly inward
Through the genius of Ann Nocenti.

Thank you Ann, and welcome, D.G. Chichester—your own genius quickly reaffirmed with DAREDEVIL #292.

Jan C. Childress
82 Pierrepont St.
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Thank you , Jan. We are all touched.

Dear Ralph (like we're personal friends),

I, for one, am glad to see Ann Nocenti gone and Chichester taking over. Don't get me wrong, I know Nocenti is an excellent writer, but the lady needs a nice fun night out on the town or an "upper" or something. She's just to darn depressing. That's the main reason I've never been a committed DAREDEVIL collector, and the same can be said for my friends. Nothing good ever happens to him. It's all death, destruction, loss, and regret. It gets old after a while.

As for issues #292-293, I enjoyed them except for a few things. I've found that most writers don't give Taskmaster the credit he deserves. I've always thought of him as one of the most powerful, deadly criminals alive. He is usually far too easily beaten. I am glad, however, that DD didn't beat him in just an out and out slugfest. I'd have doubts that he could. And why show his face? It's never been seen before. Why here, why in this way? Any chance that it was a mask?

I sure hope that Kingpin gets the shaft by who ever that is. Could it beeee... Baron Wolfgang Von Strucker!?!? If so keep in mind he has been, and could still be, an ally/servant of the Red Skull, who was beaten by Kingpin in CAPTAIN AMERICA last year. If this is not Skull vengeance, then how about a story in this mag some time? DD could get another crack at Cross Bones (what's my deal with skulls today). I'd love to see Skull fry Kingpin and tangle with DD.

Anyway, I hope this becomes a book I really want regularly, and I'm open minded to the new crew. Until Ghost Rider does not have a guest shot somewhere, make mine Marvel.

Cory Patterson
1823 Northridge Court
Spokane, WA 99208

Well, Cory, by now you know that it was indeed that master of the monocle—Baron Wolfgang Von Strucker—who was behind it all.

Dear Marvel,

First let me start by telling you how much I enjoy your comic. Second, let me tell you that I loved the ending of issue #291 immensely. Seeing Foggy wondering what to say to Matt when he finds him-- then to have him turn around and find out that he was there listening the whole time--and that he forgave him--it was great! Foggy was always one of my favorites. Now all you have to do is bring back Karen Page. I would like to see DD team up with Punisher and Spider Man. I also expect to see Ghost Rider in here soon, since he's been just about everywhere else. As for future villains, who better than Taskmaster and Tombstone. Both have taken on some pretty powerful people—Tombstone: Spider Man (I figure that's enough) and Taskmaster: Captain America, Thing, Hawkeye, and Ant Man. Plus, both are always trying to be crimelords or something in that area.

Next I would like to address the Elektra Graphic Novel. The art and story were wonderful, but I still have some questions:

1) Is Bullseye really dead? And since this story has to take place after issue #290, does it mean that the story took place a good amount of time in the future, or that it doesn't go along with the regular Marvel Universe continuity?

2) Why bring back Elektra if you were just gonna kill her in the end of the story? Once again I'm hoping this doesn't take place in the regular Marvel Continuity.

Scott Pasch
4910 Heversham Court
Fairfax, VA 22032

To answer your questions, Scott:
1) Bullseye is very much alive.
2) Elektra's dead?

Dear Marvel,

The Hulk has his MASTERWORKS. The Avengers have at least two MASTERWORKS. Spider Man has three MASTERWORKS. The X-Men have three MASTERWORKS. The Fantastic Four have at least two MASTERWORKS. There's even a MASTERWORKS for old monster stories. When does Daredevil get his MASTERWORKS?!?

Alexander Chauvin
122 Syosset Circle
Syosset, NY 11791

DAREDEVIL MASTERWORKS is already in the works, and is due to be out in stores this fall. Look for it!

Dear Marvel,

Fate (or was it the editor?) has assigned a new writer to DAREDEVIL. Now, how do I like this new writer's premiere issue? How can ya ask?! It's great! Far greater than I had expected! Taskmaster, one of my all-time favorite villains, is in it! Ya-hooo! And Tombstone...! Tombstone is back!!! Hooray! He's not dead! I told ya, didn't I (see my letter in WEB OF SPIDER MAN #74)? And there were also a few panels with Typhoid. Guys, read my lips: get that girl in action! She's darn good! I love her as much as I love Elektra (bring her back too!).

Oh yeah, I almost forgot, there were five pages of Punisher in this issue too. Listen, folks, if this is what you call "Battle With The Punisher", please warn me in advance when you have in mind to really exaggerate!! But all in all, I really liked this issue. Taskmaster is the best. Dan G. Chichester Rules!

Tue Sorensen
Blytaekkerporten 135
DK-2650 Hvidovre
Denmark

Dear D.G.,

"they like to--to touch your hair, to pull on it before--so yeah--I cut my hair" —Karen Page: DAREDEVIL #294.

Masterful storytelling on the part of D.G. Chichester. Where Ann Nocenti took an almost metaphysical approach to DAREDEVIL, the return to down-to- earth tales by D.G. gives DAREDEVIL a gritty, realistic style within the bounds of Marvel storytelling.

The return of Karen Page, as well as, the other regulars--Foggy, Typhoid Mary, and Kingpin--has me excited about this new chapter in the life of everyone's favorite blind attorney. The thought of Matt regaining his license to practice law leaves me speechless with anticipation.

What Ann did with the super powered team ups, D.G. is preparing to do with the help of a strong supportive cast. Both forms of storytelling have their merits, but after bouts with the inhumans and Mephisto, I'm looking for a long stretch of stories set in Hell's Kitchen.

Even the combination of Lee Weeks and Al Williamson works extremely well in conveying the down to earth nature of the stories. Bringing up sensitive matters--such as pornography--is a tricky matter (one handled quite well by the new creative team). Given the general direction of the past few issues and the developments with the Hand, I think the readers are in for a real treat!

Charles S. Novinskie
P.O. Box 1323
Grand Junction, CO 81502